

Ogden House

Fairfield, Conn.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District Of Connecticut

Historic American Buildings Survey
Harold H. Davis, District Officer
29 Whitney Ave., New Haven, Conn.

David Ogden House
1520 Bronson Road
Southport
Fairfield County
Connecticut

HABS No. CONN-56

An addendum to
Ogden House
Bronson Road
Fairfield
Fairfield County
Connecticut
in HABS Catalogs (1941, 1959)

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

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OGDEN HOUSE

Fairfield, Fairfield County, Conn.

Owner: Miss Mary Allis, 414 Madison Ave., (Apt.-B)
New York City, N. Y.

Date of Erection: 1705

Architect or Builder: Not Known

Present Condition: Fair

Number of Stories: Two and One-half

Materials of Construction: Stone foundation
Shingled sidewalls and roof
Brick central chimney above roof-
stone chimney through building

Other Existing Records: "Old Town of Fairfield, Conn."
"Ogden House - Fairfield, Conn."
Published June 13th, 1935.
"Ye Old Town of Fairfield, Conn."
Tercentenary.

List of Photographs:

1. Front Elevation

OGDEN HOUSE
FAIRFIELD, FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Midway between Fairfield and Greenfield Hills on Oaklawn Drive, stands the Ogden House, exemplifying, even today, the true splendor of an unspoiled colonial dwelling. The merit of the house consists almost entirely in the fact that it is almost completely in its original condition, very little reconstruction being necessary.

It is said that the house was built by one of the Ogdens probably about 1715 or 1720, but possibly as early as 1710. The original structure probably consisted solely of the entrance porch and the south rooms. The north wing was perhaps added about 1750, and still later the kitchen lean-to and the usual extra flue.

As interesting features of this old dwelling, one should note the very large fireplaces with back ovens and lug poles, the enormous hearthstones, and the winding stairs leading to the attic. Also to be noted is the old flooring, posts, beams, panelling, and stonework. The shingles on the north side of the house are very early and show a beautiful weathering. Each shingle, made of white pine, is about thirty-six inches long, is overlapped twice and fastened at the butt by two hand wrought iron nails. The house is furnished entirely in the early period, and thus you find a typical colonial house more than two hundred years old.

Always mentioned in the same breath, as this house, are two beautiful trees, one an oak across the road, and the other an elm beside the house. They are both very stately trees and lend much to the beauty of the Ogden House, and it is often mentioned that the excellent workmanship man put into this house becomes inferior to the superb workmanship which nature wrought on these trees.

The Ogdens were early in Connecticut. According to reports they went along the shore to Stamford in 1641, and one Richard Ogden came to Fairfield in the 1650's. In 1662 he opened a mill located a quarter of a mile south of the Ogden House. The same mill is still in operation and is known as Perry's Mill.

Also from records we find that one David Ogden had three sons who served in the Revolutionary War from this house. Another descendant, Ellen Ogden, acquired much of this property as time went on. She was married to

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OGDEN HOUSE
FAIRFIELD, FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Ebenezer Silliman, a sea captain. They had no children and lived a very retired life with much exactness and precision. Ellen Ogden Silliman is reputed to have been so retiring as to take an out of the way river path rather than the highway, just to avoid her neighbors.

The present owner, Miss Mary Allis of New York City, is apparently a fond lover of the early colonial period, which can be noted by the truly characteristic nature of the house and its furnishings.

Source of Information: "Old Town of Fairfield, Conn."

"Ogden House - Fairfield, Conn."
Published June 13th, 1935.

"Ye Old Town of Fairfield, Conn."
Tercentenary.

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Approved:

*Harold W. Davis Feb. 27-1959**150*